

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069124

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ, CU

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN THE UN

REF: USUN 726

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH MISSION'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY COMITE OF 24 CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO AND SUGGESTIONS FOR COPING WITH THEM. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES USG MUST REASSURE PUERTO RICANS DIRECTLY OF ITS ACTIVE CONCERN WHILE INDIRECTLY SEEKING TO PERSUADE COMITE OF 24 AND OTHER UN MEMBERS OF LEGITIMACY OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONSHIP WITH PUERTO RICO. IN THESE ENDEAVORS IT IS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE NOT TO PREJUDICE OUR POSITION THAT UN HAS NO RIGHT TO CONSIDER PUERTO RICO, NOT TO APPEAR TO BE LOBBYING COMITE OR MAKING ACCOMMODATION WITH IT, AND NOT TO ATTRACT ATTENTION TO COMITE TREATMENT OF PUERTO RICO.

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2. IF COMITE HOLDS EXPECTED DEBATE ON PUERTO RICO, MISSION

IN ORDER TO PRESERVE US POSITION, SHOULD ISSUE UNAMBIGUOUS AND COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC STATEMENT DETAILING US-PUERTO RICAN RELATIONSHIP AND DENYING LEGITIMACY OF COMITE'S DISCUSSION OF SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORY. SHOULD ISSUE SURFACE IN FOURTH COMMITTEE OR PLENARY, US DELEGATES SHOULD REFER TO STATEMENT AND AGAIN DENY RIGHT OF UN BODIES TO DISCUSS PUERTO RICO. PROPOSED STATEMENT SHOULD MAKE US CASE CLEAR AND AVOID USDEL BEING DRAWN INTO DEBATE WHICH MIGHT HIGHLIGHT ISSUE AND ENHANCE COMITE ROLE.

3. WITH CAVEATS NOTED ABOVE DEPARTMENT CONCURS WITH PROPOSALS CONTAINED PARAGRAPH 13 REFTEL. USUN ACCORDINGLY SHOULD INFORM GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ-COLON AND HIS STAFF OF PROBABLE NATURE OF COMITE'S EXAMINATION OF PUERTO RICO'S STATUS THIS YEAR AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO EXPLAIN PUERTO RICO'S GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND TIES WITH US TO AMENABLE COMITE MEMBERS IN NEW YORK AND CAPITALS. TO BROADEN UNDERSTANDING OF US RELATIONSHIP WITH PUERTO RICO, IT MAY BE USEFUL LATER TO URGE PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS TO EXPAND LOBBYING EFFORTS TO INCLUDE OTHER UN MEMBERS.

4. USUN SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO GAIN OTHER MISSIONS' ACCEPTANCE OF REALITIES US-PUERTO RICO RELATIONSHIP. DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT CONTACTS BETWEEN PUERTO RICANS AND UN DIPLOMATS WOULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD. DEPT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON GOVERNMENTS WITH WHOM IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS PUERTO RICO.

5. USUN MAY CARRY OUT ITS PLAN TO CONSULT WITH PROPOSED CONFIDENTIAL WORKING GROUP OF FRIENDLY COMITE MEMBERS. USUN SHOULD ALSO LOOK INTO OTHER WAYS OF EXERTING LEVERAGE ON THE COMITE.

6. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ABOVE MEASURES SHOULD BE OF CONSIDERABLE UTILITY IN QUARANTINING PUERTO RICAN ISSUE IN COMITE OF 24 AND PREVENTING ITS BECOMING PROMINENT.

7. IN ADDITION, DEPARTMENT IS EXAMINING POSSIBILITY OF SPONSORING PUERTO RICO FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OR ITS EQUIVALENT IN SELECTED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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EXPANDING PUERTO RICAN PARTICIPATION ON US DELEGATIONS. PURPOSE WOULD BE TO PROVIDE STRUCTURED SITUATIONS IN WHICH PUERTO RICANS INCREASINGLY COULD DEFEND THEMSELVES INTERNATIONALLY. RUSH

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